

Amendments to the Drawings

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of December 28, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer with respect to USSN 10/760,232, Amendment to the specification, drawings and claims, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

pages 1 and 2 have been updated: the US docket numbers have been replaced by their corresponding US application numbers;

page 13, line 14, page 14, line 32, page 17, lines 19-20, page 18, line 9 and page 22, line 12 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C;

Fig. 43 is amended to include the reference sign "500", as is described at page 8, lines 19-27 of the present specification;

independent claim 1 is amended to omit "the printing" from the recitation "the printing operation" and to omit "the" from the recitation "the edge regions";

dependent claim 6 is amended to replace "connecting" with --connection-- in both instances of the recitation "the connecting strips"; and

dependent claim 7 is amended to clarify that at least two fluid distribution members are provided, one for each printhead integrated circuit. Support for this amendment can be found at page 6, lines 15-22 of the present specification.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Drawing Objections

Regarding Fig. 17C

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to omit reference to Fig. 17C in the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding reference sign "500"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to Fig. 43 to insert the reference sign "500", provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding Claim Objections

Regarding Claim 1

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to claim 1 provide sufficient antecedent basis for the recitations "operation" and "edge regions".

Regarding Claim 6

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to claim 6 provide sufficient antecedent basis for the recitation "connection strips".

Regarding Claim 7

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 7 to clarify that at least two fluid distribution members are provided, one for each printhead integrated circuit, provides the correction and antecedent basis required by the Examiner, since basis for the recitation "respective ones of the fluid distribution members" is provided and it is clarified that the claimed fluid distribution members refer to the disclosed fluid distribution stacks 500 (see page 8, lines 19-27 of the present specification).

Regarding Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

With respect to the provisional non-statutory double patenting rejection of pending claims 1-5 and 7 over claims 1-8 of copending Application No. 10/760,232, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) is being submitted herewith; the present application and Application No. 10/760,232 being commonly owned by the Applicant.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of pending (and amended) independent claim 1, and claims 2-7 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook et al. (US 6,439,908), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead tiles/integrated circuits 50,51 arranged on a fluid channel member 40, and is assembled within a casing 20 to form a printhead. Control of the printing performed by the printhead integrated circuits of the modules is provided by arranging a number of print engine controller integrated circuits 92,100 along the casing via supports 91, with each controller circuit being arranged to control the printing performed by at least one of the printhead integrated circuits and being interconnected to the adjacent controller(s) via connecting member 102.

In this way, easy determination, removal and replacement of defective circuitry in the modular printhead is effected as a number of controllers are provided for controlling separate areas of the printhead (see page 6, lines 9-39, page 7, line 36-page 8, line 6, page 15, line 20-page 16, line 16, page 19, line 6-page 20, line 18 and page 26, lines 30-39 of the present specification). These features of the present invention are presently recited in pending (and amended) independent claim 1.

On the other hand, Silverbrook discloses an arrangement in which each printhead module 12 has a single microelectromechanical chip 18 and support molding 26,28. Each module is plugged into a reservoir molding 32 housing an ink reservoir 16. Each module may be removed from the reservoir molding, however scalability of the printhead assembly 10 is not provided, as the reservoir molding is a set length (see col. 2, lines 2-34 of Silverbrook).

Further, the flexible printed circuit board 54 disclosed by Silverbrook to which the TAB films 22 of the individual printhead modules connected, does not constitute a controller for controlling the printing performed by the chips of the modules, contrary to the Examiner's contention, let alone two of such controllers, as required by pending independent claim 1. Rather, the flexible printed circuit board has a data connector 66 for connection to such circuitry of a printer which supplies data and control to printhead assembly. That is, the flexible printed circuit board is merely an interface with no control circuitry (see col. 3, line 57-col. 4, line 28 and col. 7, lines 17-22 of Silverbrook).

Thus, Silverbrook does not disclose an arrangement in which the modules have more than one printhead chip and in which more than one (interconnected) controller is provided for controlling the printing performed by the chips. Furthermore, the disclosure of Silverbrook does not teach or suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed assembly, because Silverbrook specifically teaches that the modularity is provided by the plugging in of the modules into the reservoir molding.

Thus, the subject matter of pending (and amended) independent claim 1, and claims 2-7 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,
Applicants:



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